

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 15 with the following
rewritten version:

-- The transverse sealing mechanism 17 is provided beneath the forming mechanism 13, the pull-down belt mechanism 14, and the vertical sealing mechanism 15. As shown in Fig. 6, the transverse sealing mechanism 17 has a pair of symmetrical sealing jaws. The two sealing jaws 17a, each of which turns in the shape of the letter "D", leaving tracks T that are symmetrical to each other. The sealing jaws 17a mate with each other when the tubular film Fmc is ready to be transversely sealed. The transverse sealing mechanism 17 has a cutter built therein not shown in the drawing. The cutter separates the bag from the tubular film Fmc that follows the bag at the center of the part sealed by the sealing jaws 17a. The transverse sealing mechanism 17 crimps the part to be transversely sealed by sandwiching the tubular film Fmc between the sealing jaws 17a, a process that requires heat in addition to pressure. Therefore, in order to heat the mating surfaces of the sealing jaws 17a that contact the tubular film Fmc, a heater is provided in the each of the sealing jaws 17a, and a thermocouple is attached thereto as well. --